

BROADCAST 4147

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TO: Local Directors, Foster Care Supervisors and Workers, Permanency Regional Specialists; and Executive Directors of Child Placing Agencies

FROM: Lynette Isbell, Acting Director, Division of Family Services
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SUBJECT: Foster Parent Contingency Fund Policy

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Since February 1, 1990, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has provided liability and property damage reimbursement for approved foster parents caring for children, ages 0-21, who are in the custody of or receiving foster care services from a local department of social services. This broadcast is a reminder to staff within local departments of social services of the existence of this method of reimbursement and an announcement of the revision to contingency policy and new claim forms which are to be used effective the date of this broadcast.

The *Code of Virginia* § 63.2-911, Liability Insurance for Foster Parents states; “The Department may provide liability insurance for civil matters for persons providing basic foster care services in foster homes, as defined in §§ 63.2-100 and 63.2-905, that are approved by local boards for children in their custody or children who the board has entered into an agreement to place where legal custody remains with the parent or guardians.” The coverage provided by the Contingency Fund is designed to protect foster parents, local department of social services, and child placing agencies from bearing all the costs of damages to property or person caused by a foster child placed in foster a home. While this program is not designed to reimburse foster parents’ for normal wear and tear of property, it does provide a reasonable level of protection. The Contingency Fund is considered a source secondary to foster parents' liability, property damage, homeowners, and medical or health insurance policies.

The Contingency Fund Policy and required forms are available on both the VDSS Website at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/fc/contingency.cgi> and local department of social services website (SPARKS) at <http://spark.dss.virginia.gov/divisions/dfs/fc/manual.cgi>.